AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode ~~ATM~~ call, wherein a first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call is established between a first party and a second party and a second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call is established between the second party and a third party, wherein the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, and wherein the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, the method comprising the steps of:

an ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch coupled to the second party receiving a message to transfer the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to connect the first party and the third party;

the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch connecting a first segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call;

the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party; and

the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the message includes a first identifier for the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call and a second identifier for the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call.

3. (currently amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein the first identifier is a call reference for the first ATMasynchronous transfer mode call and the second identifier is a call reference for the second ATMasynchronous transfer mode call.

4. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the second party is coupled to the ATMasynchronous transfer mode switch by a media access gateway and the media access gateway sends the message to the ATMasynchronous transfer mode switch.

5. (currently amended)   The method of claim 4 wherein the media access gateway is coupled to a call control entity that receives a request from the second party to transfer the first ATMasynchronous transfer mode call to the second ATMasynchronous transfer mode call and wherein the media access gateway generates the message under control of the call control entity in response to the request from the second party.

6. (currently amended)   The method of claim 5 wherein the media access gateway is one of a trunk access gateway or a line access gateway.

7. (currently amended)   The method of claim 5 wherein the message is received by the ATMasynchronous transfer mode switch via the second segment of the first ATMasynchronous transfer mode call or via the second segment of the second ATMasynchronous transfer mode call.

8. (currently amended)   A method for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode call, wherein a first asynchronous transfer mode call is established between a first party and a second party and a second asynchronous transfer mode call is established between the second party and a third party, wherein the

first asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, and wherein the second asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, the method comprising the steps of:

an asynchronous transfer mode switch coupled to the second party receiving a message to transfer the first asynchronous transfer mode call to the second asynchronous transfer mode call to connect the first party and the third party;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch connecting a first segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party;

wherein the second party is coupled to the asynchronous transfer mode switch by a media access gateway and the media access gateway sends the message to the asynchronous transfer mode switch;

wherein the media access gateway is coupled to a call control entity that receives a request from the second party to transfer the first asynchronous transfer mode call to the second asynchronous transfer mode call and wherein the media access gateway generates the message under control of the call control entity in response to the request from the second party; and

~~The method of claim 5~~ wherein the media access gateway maintains control over a connection between the first segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous

transfer mode call and the first segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call after the second segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call and the second segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call are released.

9. (currently amended)   An apparatus for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode ~~ATM~~ call, comprising:

an ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch that receives a message to transfer a first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to a second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call;

wherein the message is received over an ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode facility that couples the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call or the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch;

wherein in response to the message, the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch connects a first segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call; and

wherein the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch releases a second segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch to a caller and releases a second segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch to the caller.

10. (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the message includes a first identifier for the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call and a second identifier for the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call.

11. (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first identifier

is a call reference for the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call and the second identifier is a call reference for the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call.

12. (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a media access gateway that is coupled to the caller and coupled to the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch by the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode facility, wherein the media access gateway transmits the message to the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch.

13. (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a call control entity coupled to the media access gateway that:

      receives a request from the caller to transfer the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call; and directs the media access gateway to transmit the message to the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch.

14. (currently amended)   An apparatus for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode ~~ATM~~ call, comprising:

      a media access gateway that sends a message to an ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch over an ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode facility to transfer a first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to a second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call; wherein in response to the message, the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch:

            connects a first segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call;

            releases a second segment of the first ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the ~~ATM~~asynchronous transfer mode switch

to the media access gateway; and

releases a second segment of the second ~~ATM~~<u>asynchronous</u> <u>transfer mode</u> call that extends from the ~~ATM~~<u>asynchronous transfer</u> <u>mode</u> switch to the media access gateway.

15. (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a call control entity coupled to the media access gateway to control the transmission of the message to the ~~ATM~~<u>asynchronous transfer mode</u> switch by the media access gateway.